

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-07

AID-05 OES-03 /089 W

----- 007094

R 230930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2586

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, SO, SF

SUBJECT: TEN SOMALI SHEIKHS EXECUTED

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 0122 B) MOGADISCIO 0107

1. RADIO MOGADISCIO ANNOUNCED ON EARLY MORNING BROADCAST JAN. 23 THAT TEN CONDEMNED SHEIKHS WOULD BE EXECUTED BETWEEN 0630 AND 0830 HRS LOCAL AT POLICE ACADEMY. WE HAVE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED BUT RELIABLE REPORTS THAT SENTENCES WERE CARRIED OUT AS SCHEDULED.

2. MOGADISCIO REMAINS QUIET, ALTHOUGH TENSE. CRITICAL PERIOD LOCALLY WILL BE TOMORROW WHEN CROWDS GATHER AT LOCAL MOSQUES.

3. UNTIL MORNING BROADCAST TODAY, MANY --INCLUDING ARAB DIPLOMATS -- HELD TO HOPE THAT SIAD WOULD NOT CARRY OUT EXECUTIONS.

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4. SIAD SUMMONED ALL ARAB AMBASSADORS IN MOGADISCIO YESTERDAY EVENING JANUARY 22 FOR TWO-HOUR BRIEFING ON SOMALI SITUATION. SIAD SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT NUMEROUS PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PROBLEMS OF SHEIKHS, DROUGHT, AS WELL AS EXTERNAL RELATIONS. HE TOLD ARAB DIPLOMATS THAT THE TEN SHEIKHS CONDEMNED TO DEATH WERE NOT IN FACT SHEIKHS AT ALL, BUT COMMON CRIMINALS WHO WERE ON PAYROLL OF FOREIGN POWER, ACCUSED SOME OF THEM OF PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS, ETC. WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE IN FACT HIGHLY RESPECTED MEN.

5. AT THE END OF HIS MONOLOGUE, ONLY ONE ARAB AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY ASKED FOR CLEMENCY FOR THE CONDEMNED MEN. HE TOLD SIAD THAT, WHILE QUESTION INTRUDED ON A DELICATE INTERNAL MATTER, HE FELT OBLIGED TO ASK SIAD FOR CLEMENCY ON SHEIKHS' BEHALF. HE SUGGESTED THAT SENTENCES MIGHT BE COMMUTED TO PRISON TERMS AT HARD LABOR; AND WARNED THAT EXECUTION OF SHEIKHS WOULD HAVE MOST ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES IN ALL ARAB CAPITALS, WHETHER SOCIALIST OR MODERATE. SIAD THEN ADMITTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED TELEGRAMS URGING HIM TO SET ASIDE THE DEATH SENTENCES FROM VIRTUALLY ALL ARAB CAPITALS, BUT HE MADE NO COMMITMENT AS TO WHETHER THE SENTENCINGS WOULD BE REVIEWED.

6. SIAD ALSO SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT POLYGAMY WOULD BE ABOLISHED IN SOMALIA AND THAT DIVORCE LAWS WOULD BE CHANGED, THE SAME LINE HE'D TAKEN IN HIS PREVIOUS NIGHT'S ADDRESS AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE, SAYING THAT SCIENTIFIC YYPUALISM HAD TONIOMALI SOCIETY FORWARD AND THAT DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE INEQUITIES MUST BE REMOVED. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, REFER IN ANY WAY TO QUESTION OF INHERITANCE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT, WHEREAS THE KORAN'S STRICTURES ON DIVORCE AND POLYGAMY ARE SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION, INHERITANCE RULES CAN'T BE TAMPERED WITH.

7. MANY OF THE ARAB AMBASSADORS WERE REPORTEDLY SATISFIED WITH SIAD'S PERFORMANCE: CONSENSUS WAS THAT SIAD HAD DONE ABOUT ALL THAT HE COULD DO TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION FOR THEM. FOLLOWING SIAD BRIEFING, MANY OF THEM FELT THE SHEIKHS WOULD NOT BE EXECUTED. WE EXPECT THAT THEY ARE NOW AS SHOCKED AS THEIR CAPITALS WILL BE.

KIRK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WOMEN, HUMAN RIGHTS, EXECUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750025-0664
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750127/aaaaaxjp.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOGADISCIO 0122, 75 MOGADISCIO 0107
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEN SOMALI SHEIKHS EXECUTED
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, SO, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006